

then of *Camillus*, as the special champion of the treaty, Jefferson forgot his slender hold upon the world and showed a very robust desire to have Hamilton refuted. Three weeks after the letter to Page he wrote to Madison: "A solid reply might completely demolish what was too feebly attacked and has gathered strength from the weakness of the attack. The merchants were certainly (except those of them who are English) as open-mouthed at first against the treaty as any. But the general expression of indignation has alarmed them for the strength of the Government, They have feared the shock would be too great, and chosen to tack about and support both Treaty and Government rather than risk the Government. Thus it is that Hamilton, Jay, etc., in the boldest act they ever ventured on to undermine the Government, have the address to screen themselves, and direct the hue cry against those who wish to drag them into light. A holder party stroke was never struck. For it certainly is an attempt of a party who find they have lost their majority in one branch of the Legislature, to make a law by the aid of the other branch and of the Executive, under color of a treaty which shall bind up the hands of the adverse branch from ever restraining the commerce of their patron nation. There appears a pause at present in the public sentiment which may be followed by a revolution, * * * For God's sake take up your pen and give, a fundamental reply to *Curtius* and *Camillus*."

Despite the Republican position the treaty was ratified. This evoked a storm of criticism, the bitterness of which has rarely been equalled in our history, Jefferson joined in this criticism and did not spare Washington himself. He even assailed the treaty-making power of the Executive. "The objects on which the President and Senate may exclusively act by treaty are much reduced," he wrote, "but the Held on which they may act with the sanction of the Legislature is large enough. And I see no harm in rendering¹ their action necessary and not much harm in annihilating¹ the whole treaty-making power, except as to making peace." Touching the President's refusal to lay before the House the documents relating to the